

ZHURAVEL (THE CRANE)

Ukrainian

V. F. BELIAJUS

Not all Ukrainian dances are composed of Priyadkies (Squat figures) which only the long winded and virile can do. There is a tremendous number of dances among them which are devoid of any squat step, not to mention dances for girls who at no time are permitted to do a squat figure.

Because Ukraina has now been under Russian subjugation for 500 years, many people seem to lump Ukrainians and Russians as one. Such is not the case. The Ukrainians are a distinct people even tho they belong to the large family of Slavs. Because of the same subjugation, Ukrainians, with greater intensity placed a rigid rule on its traditions. There are many taboos and don'ts in Ukrainian dancing. The Russians who have adopted much from the Ukrainian, whose culture, by the way, is vastly much older than that of the Russians, did not feel bound to any such traditions which are dear to a Ukrainian only.

Zhuravel is a simple dance. There are two main versions and several lesser ones. The version described here is of a playful nature and in imitation of the flight of the crane. Only one step, the basic Ukrainian low pas-de-basque, is employed throughout the dance.

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RECORD: Stinson UK 132 B.

FORMATION: Four couples line up behind each other to a side away from the dancing area. Boy's R hand on girls R waist, his L hand on his hip (Or, if preferred, he holds L hand of the girl). The girl places her R hand over her chest (beads), L hand on her hip (or joined with the L hand of her partner).

STEP. Leap forward, low, on R foot (1), bring L foot near R (and), step on R foot near L (2), pause (and). Repeat above with L foot.

ENTRANCE:

Meas. 1-16: Dance unto the area, first couple leads all others in a double circle, and as each one reaches a side of a square, remains at that side and dances in place until a square of four couples is formed.

Meas. 1-8: Hook R elbows and dance spinning in place for four measures, then hook L elbows and dance for four more measures.

REFRAIN

Meas. 1-16: Couples join an inside hand hold. Head couples change places with boy leading and girl trailing. Change by passing the opposite couple facing each other. Four measures to change. Now, the side couples change, then the head couples return and the side couples do the same. This refrain is done after each figure.

SHORT BOWS

Meas. 1-16: Head couples jump toward each other with one basic step and do two short and very low bows, motioning hands downward in salutation and nearly reaching floor and with one basic step return to place (all of this four Measures). Now side couples do the same, after which head couples repeat once more the deep bowing, as do the side couples.

Meas. 1-16: Repeat the Refrain.

FLIGHT OF THE CRANES

Meas. 1-4: Release hold, with basic steps boys follow one another, hands extended sideways and in motion imitating the crane in flight, boys dance up to the opposite girl.

Meas. 5-8: With R hands around each other's waist and free hand high above head in flight motion, couple dance around each other rotating in place.

Meas. 9-16: Once again boys "fly" over to own partner and swing them in place (with basic steps).

Meas. 1-16: Repeat the Refrain.

LONG BOWS

Meas. 1-16: Head couples leap forward toward each other with one basic step and spend two measures for one deep and low bow (as above), but it is to last two measures. Leap back to place on the fourth measure. This long bow is now repeated by the side couples and then once again by the head and followed by the side couples.

Meas. 1-16: Repeat the Refrain.

Meas. 1-16: Repeat the two short bows.

Meas. 1-16: Repeat the Refrain.

Meas. 1-8: Hook right elbows with partner and dance around each for four measures, then hook left elbows and dance with four more measures.

Meas. 1-16: Assume position as at entrance, circle around once in square couple behind couple, then with head couple leading form a double file (long ways), end facing partners and both hands joined.

ARCHES

Meas. 1-16: All raise their joined hands and leading couple goes under the arches to foot of set where they assume and arch position (4 Meas.), now, couple 2 goes under to foot of set, and each four measures a new couple will go under the arch until head leading couple is once again at head of set.

EXIT

Face forward. Couples place their R hands around each other, outside hand is raised above head and in "flying" motion dance off the floor.

NOTE: Basic step is done throughout the dance (except during bows). As one set of couples exchange places, or during any stationary part, the inactive couples, and all dancers at all times should do the basic step in place.

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